



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

QUICK LINKS

- APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine: Building Partnerships with Outdoor Industries to Increase Public Awareness about Forest Pests
- APHIS Publishes Proposed Rule to Update Packaging and Labeling Requirements for Veterinary Biologics
- Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health Holds First Meeting
- North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank Helps to Fight Outbreak in South Korea
- Animal Care to Host Scientific Seminar on Tuberculosis in Elephants
- APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Program Extends Comment Period for Draft Strategic Plan
- Going Global: A New Structure for APHIS International Services
- APHIS Launches New User Fees Web Site
- APHIS Awards Contract to Upgrade Comprehensive and Integrated Animal Health Surveillance System
- APHIS YouTube Feature of the Month: "Wildlife Services Aids Osprey, Aviators"
- APHIS Employee Feature: Dr. Jon Zack, Veterinary Services
- Vacancies in APHIS

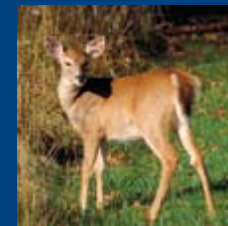
Contact Information

Hallie Zimmers
State Liaison, APHIS
Legislative and Public Affairs
202-720-0378 (ph)
202-720-3982 (fax)
hallie.zimmers@aphis.usda.gov

Jacob Hegemann
State Liaison, APHIS
Legislative and Public Affairs
202-720-6794 (ph)
202-720-3982 (fax)
jacob.hegeman@aphis.usda.gov

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine: Building Partnerships with Outdoor Industries to Increase Public Awareness about Forest Pests

APHIS is well known as the Federal regulatory agency responsible for safeguarding American agriculture and natural resources, but you may not know that in addition to its regulatory role, the Agency is involved in a wide variety of education and outreach activities. In fact, education and outreach are a critical part of the Agency's efforts to address potential risks to agriculture and the environment from invasive plant pests.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011



One example of this at work is Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) campaign to stop the spread of two invasive forest pests: the Emerald ash borer (EAB) and Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). These pests are regulated by APHIS and are the subject of numerous State and Federal quarantines around the country. However, the Agency long ago recognized that quarantines and eradication programs must be supplemented by heightened public awareness around what to do to prevent the inadvertent movement of these pests. In particular, these pests present a great opportunity for outreach because one of their primary pathways is the movement of untreated firewood—an activity many people engage in without even knowing its dangerous effects. You may have seen some of these outreach campaigns, such as beetlebusters.info and stopthebeetle.info, but in an effort to further expand the reach of this information, PPQ's State Plant Health Directors (SPHDs) are now looking to leverage their efforts by enlisting the help of a new group of potential outreach partners- industries and organizations based on outdoor recreation.



The premise is simple, by working with industries that have customers who enjoy the outdoors, more people can be reached with important information about forest pests and the harm they can cause to recreation areas such as parks and forests. To do this, PPQ's SPHDs in several States are making contact with relevant industries and organizations in their State- from outdoor trade groups to recreational vehicle manufacturers and campgrounds- to discuss ways they can partner on this important issue. This initiative is still in a pilot phase in Illinois, Wyoming, North Carolina, Washington, Oregon and Indiana, but PPQ expects to expand the project to additional States over the coming year. If you're interested in partnering with PPQ on this initiative in one of the above mentioned States, please contact us at: firewood@aphis.usda.gov.

For more information on APHIS' work regarding invasive forest pests, please visit our websites for ALB, EAB and Firewood.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

APHIS Publishes Proposed Rule to Update Packaging and Labeling Requirements for Veterinary Biologics

APHIS is currently accepting public comment on a proposed rule to update the packaging and labeling requirements for veterinary biologics. These proposed changes are intended to ensure that product labels on veterinary biologics include accurate descriptions, warnings and cautions and provide veterinary professionals and consumers with additional information about a product's purpose and expected performance.

APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics plays a vital role in regulating products that diagnose, prevent or treat animal diseases. The Center uses scientific information and regulatory processes to assure its customers that the veterinary biological products available for use today are of the highest quality. The proposed rule contains a number of changes to strengthen existing requirements, including the following highlights:

- Allowing for the use of an abbreviated product name (assigned by APHIS) on the labeling of small containers of veterinary biologics to allow additional room for other required information.
- Requiring a consumer contact telephone number on veterinary biologic labels so consumers can contact the licensee or permittee to report adverse events or other unfavorable experiences associated with the use of the products.
- Requiring labeling that bears warnings alerting people who inject themselves with veterinary biologics to seek medical treatment.
- Changing the statement on carton labels and enclosures to read "For animal use only" instead of "For veterinary use only".
- Establishing minimum requirements for information that must be provided under instructions for proper use of the product.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

- Requiring labeling that bears warnings against treating animals with mixtures of veterinary biologics that are not approved for administration as combination products.
- Requiring labeling indicating the presence of non-antibiotic preservatives.
- Requiring companies to provide documentation by the appropriate regulatory official of an importing country to affirm the need for special labeling in order to satisfy the country's regulatory requirements when they differ from those here in the United States.

The public comment period for the proposed rule closes March 14, 2011. To view the rule in its entirety or to submit a comment, please go to: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2008-0008-0001>



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health Holds First Meeting

The newly chartered Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (SACAH) held its first meeting in Washington D.C., on January 20-21. The Committee reestablishes an older Secretary's Advisory Committee that addressed Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases and brings with it a broader scope that will include issues such as:

- Public health
- Conservation of natural resources
- Stability of livestock economies
- Livestock disease management and traceability strategies
- Prioritizing animal health issues

Among the responsibilities of the Committee are to:

- Advise the Secretary on strategies, policies, and programs that prevent, control, or eradicate diseases of national significance;
- Lead the dialogue on public health concerns, conservation of natural resources, and the stability of livestock economies; and
- Engage the public in dialogue on topics such as
 - Livestock disease management
 - Traceability strategies
 - Prioritizing animal health issues



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

Members of the Committee were selected from nominations that were made in response to a Federal Register notification in June 2010. There are 20 committee members who are each serving a term of up to 2 years. A full list of members is available [here](#).

Discussion at the first meeting was varied and included topics such as animal disease traceability, laboratory and emergency preparedness, and comprehensive animal health surveillance. Additionally, sessions were held on APHIS Veterinary Services Vision for 2015- a strategic and operational planning effort underway to position the program for the animal health challenges of the future, and One Health- a concept representing the intersection of animal, public and environmental health. The committee also discussed the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and explored the formation of a subcommittee to examine aquaculture issues more closely.

The committee will hold its next public meeting (by teleconference) on March 4, 2011. Details on this meeting (including an agenda and call-in information for members of the public who wish to participate) are available on the committee's Web site. Details will also be published in the Federal Register.

Information on the Advisory Committee, including presentations and informational materials offered to the committee, agendas, meeting minutes and contact information, can be found at the following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/acah/index2.shtml



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank Helps to Fight Outbreak in South Korea

Since late November, South Korean animal health officials have culled more than 3 million cattle, pigs, goats and deer to stop the most severe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the country's history. Beginning in December the country started a campaign to vaccinate all livestock as a preventative measure and the North American FMD Vaccine Bank is providing the antigen to manufacture 2.5 million doses of vaccine.

The North American FMD Vaccine Bank is administered jointly by commissioners from the United States, Canada and Mexico. The antigen provided by the vaccine bank will help facilitate blanket vaccination in South Korea and limit the need for additional large-scale animal depopulation.

The North American FMD Vaccine Bank is maintaining a supply of vaccine antigen for this particular strain of the disease as a contingency to address an outbreak in North America, if required. Inventory levels will return to full supply by the end of the year at the latest.

The current outbreak in South Korea is estimated to have inflicted losses worth more than \$1.3 billion in U.S. currency. By assisting South Korea in its fight against the highly contagious disease, the vaccine bank is also helping to protect the health of North American livestock. The United States hasn't had an outbreak of FMD since 1929.

The vaccine bank is housed at USDA's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The bank stores different types of concentrated, inactivated FMD virus antigen at ultralow temperatures over liquid nitrogen. In this state, several types of antigen can be kept indefinitely and formulated into vaccine rapidly should an FMD outbreak occur.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

Animal Care to Host Scientific Seminar on Tuberculosis in Elephants

On April 5-6, APHIS' Animal Care program will host a scientific seminar at its Center for Animal Welfare in Kansas City, MO, to discuss tuberculosis (TB) in elephants. The seminar is open to professionals, such as elephant veterinarians, zoo and circus directors/officials, and researchers as well as elephant stakeholders and the general public.

The purpose of the seminar is to summarize the current state of knowledge regarding TB in elephants and to dispel misinformation about testing and the disease itself. Presentations will be given by leaders in the field and will address diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology, and public health. Information generated by the seminar will be made available electronically following the event.

The seminar is free but pre-registration is required. Pre-registration information will soon be available on the Animal Care Web site: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/index.shtml





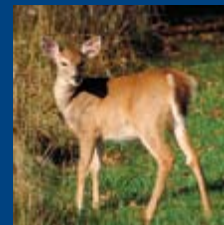
News for Stakeholders

February 2011

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Program Extends Comment Period for Draft Strategic Plan

As reported in the December Newsletter, APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program has been working hard to chart the road map for PPQ to successfully carry out its mission through 2015, and has developed a draft strategy document entitled *The Road Map to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Plant Protection & Quarantine*. PPQ is inviting those who have an interest in, or stake in the PPQ mission to review and provide comment on this draft Strategic Plan which can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ppq_strategicplan.shtml

You can provide your comments through the Web page by sending an e-mail to Jane Berkow, PPQ's Lead Strategic Planner (jane.t.berkow@aphis.usda.gov). PPQ has extended the comment period for the plan through March 15, 2011, after which the plan will be finalized and posted to the Web site.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

Going Global: A New Structure for APHIS International Services

Globalization has created new opportunities and challenges for U.S. agriculture. The increasing movement of people and goods has increased the risk of pest and disease spread. Trade liberalization, however, has also created new opportunities for U.S. farmers and ranchers to increase their exports, sales, and job growth. An important element in APHIS' strategy to meet these global challenges is to position experts overseas to work closely with foreign regulatory officials to respond to emerging pest and disease threats, resolve technical barriers which unfairly hinder U.S. exports, and create credible international relationships that allow us to expeditiously resolve health and trade emergencies as they arise. International Services (IS) fulfills the APHIS mission overseas, supporting domestic programs and U.S. safeguarding objectives.

Looking ahead, APHIS will focus on the following international strategic themes over the next 5 years:

- Extend the pest and disease barriers in Mexico and Central America southward to further reduce the threat of fruit flies, screwworms, classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, and other pests and diseases that pose an immediate and close-by risk to the United States.
- Enhance SPS trade coordination between APHIS and other agencies to resolve SPS trade barriers, keep trade safe, and support USDA's export goals.
- Strengthen international cooperation with foreign regulatory officials and international health organizations on capacity building and science exchange programs to protect global animal and plant resources.
- Promote the development of monitoring and surveillance systems abroad that can respond to a broad range of transboundary animal disease risks, including emerging zoonotic threats.

IS' vision is to develop and maintain an internationally savvy workforce that effectively advances the Agency's mission, priorities, and goals overseas. Accordingly, IS' recruitment and training efforts will



Click on chart to view details



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

focus on attracting and retaining employees who have strong diplomatic, representational, coordination, and communications skills. These competencies, which go beyond technical knowledge of APHIS domestic programs, are critical for ensuring that the Agency's interests and goals are effectively represented and advanced in an international foreign policy context.

To meet these goals, IS has reorganized by:

- Implementing a new regional approach for delivering APHIS programs overseas based on five regions (see organization chart below).
- Implementing a regional management structure whereby each of the five regions is managed by an IS Regional Manager who is responsible for overseeing activities, programs, and employees in their respective region.
- Developing and utilizing innovative and flexible procedures for strategically deploying experts for overseas missions such as limited-term appointments or temporary duty assignments.
- Enhancing IS managers' linkages with the Agency's domestic staff to ensure that IS positioning overseas as well as its international programs reflect and advance APHIS program priorities.
- Keeping under review distribution of overseas posts to focus on the most strategically significant locations consistent with Administration priorities including the National Export Initiative (NEI), food security, etc.

IS' vision includes the program playing a leading role in strengthening APHIS' ability to anticipate and proactively respond to international pest and disease events. IS is committed to cultivating a high-performing, internationally savvy IS workforce; improving the integration of IS' field intelligence and activities with headquarters strategies for better results; and reaching out to stakeholders on an ongoing basis to make program and strategic adjustments as needed and as circumstances change. For more information on International Services, please click [here](#).



News for Stakeholders

February 2011



Coming Soon to APHIS' User Fees Website.

APHIS Launches New User Fees Web Site

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently launched a new Web site to provide members of the public with information about its user fee programs.

The new Web site (www.aphis.usda.gov/userfees) provides a description of user fee goods and services, current rates and how they were determined, and scheduled rate changes. The Web site will allow individuals and businesses that use these programs to anticipate rate changes and better plan for the future.

APHIS charges user fees to cover the cost of providing a variety of goods and services that keep commerce moving while protecting our nation's food and forest resources. Inspection services ensure that food, animals, and other products entering the country are free from invasive pests and diseases that could harm America's agriculture and environment. Veterinary diagnostic services ensure the health and safety of American livestock. Other user fee services certify that U.S. animal and plant products are pest and disease free before they are exported overseas.

The new Web site reflects APHIS' ongoing commitment to enhance transparency and improve efficiency, while providing its customers with essential goods and services. APHIS user fee programs help to facilitate safe agricultural trade and open doors for U.S. agricultural products overseas, while ultimately protecting the nation's agriculture and natural resources from harmful pests and diseases.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

APHIS Awards Contract to Upgrade Comprehensive and Integrated Animal Health Surveillance System

APHIS' Veterinary Services program is contracting with Trace First Limited to upgrade its national animal health surveillance system. The program's aging Generic Disease Database will be replaced with commercial-off-the-shelf software called CoreOne.

This is the first step in an on-going process to consolidate a number of existing VS information technology (IT) investments. The new software will help VS integrate its complex technical needs allowing employees and State partners to more effectively and efficiently capture and share animal health data, including animal movement data, livestock inventories and more.

The decision to use a commercial-off-the-shelf product, instead of developing the entire system internally, is in line with government and agency initiatives for improving IT management. The move will allow us to more quickly introduce meaningful functionality and consolidate existing IT systems, thereby increasing the efficiency of data capture and providing a streamlined approach throughout the country.

Creating a central repository for this information will also make it easier to obtain data quickly in the event of an animal health emergency and to study animal health trends. The contractor is working with VS to establish a timeline for introducing CoreOne internally as well as working with State Animal Health Officials who are interested in switching to the new system.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

APHIS YouTube Feature of the Month: "Wildlife Services Aids Osprey, Aviators"

<http://www.youtube.com/usdaaphis#p/f/2/O3hnme1le50>

APHIS Employee Feature: Dr. Jon Zack, Veterinary Services

Name: Jon Zack

Title: Director Preparedness and Incident Coordination

Tell us about your role: APHIS emergency management team member with focus on animal diseases.

How long have you worked at APHIS: Nine years

Education: BA Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. DVM University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Most Memorable APHIS experiences: Scrapie eradication in Minnesota; chronic wasting disease eradication in Minnesota; exotic Newcastle disease deployments in California; melamine incident; notifiable avian influenza activities; contagious equine metritis outbreak; H1N1 influenza coordination group activities.



Dr. John Zack
Veterinary Services



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

Priorities for the coming months: preparedness activities for foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Last good book read: “The Annotated Flatlands, a Romance of Many Dimensions”.

Favorite Movie: “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”

Hobbies: Family adventures...strength training and wrestling with 16-year-old son Tom; taking tae kwon do classes along with 13-year-old son Jim and 9-year-old son Stephen (aka “Bug”); travel soccer with 11-year-old daughter Antonia; cooking with my beautiful wife Karen.



News for Stakeholders

February 2011

Vacancies in APHIS

All Agency vacancies are posted on the APHIS Web site. To view the entire list of APHIS vacancies go to www.aphis.usda.gov. Under Related Topics click on Find a Job in APHIS. The positions highlighted below are for relevant positions that are at the GS-13 level and above.

Position: [Supervisory Accountant \(Assistant Branch Chief\)](#)

Location: Riverdale, MD

Series & Grade: GS-0510-13/13

Who May Apply: All U.S. citizens

Position Closes: Feb. 22, 2011